

On July 3, 2003, the FCC issued a Report and Order amending existing regulations that implement the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). The rulemaking pertains to the National Do-Not-Call registry, which should not impact our association. The changes that do affect our association is the governing of the transmission of unsolicited fax advertisements, and the doing away with the "established business relationship" provision that has to this point has allowed associations' to fax transmissions to their members. The new rules place a severe administrative burden on associations and other businesses by requiring them to now to seek the signed written consent of each recipient before transmission of any commercial fax. The amended fax regulations will have a significant impact on the marketing and basic communications of our associations, not to mention the business-to-business communications of an untold number of American companies and corporations.

We ask that the FCC consideration delaying these new rules to allow time to determine the intent of congress or to reenact the "established business relationship" that is now in place.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,  
Michael J. O'Connor  
President